

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system and method are described that are described for accessing software components, interfaces, or resources in a distributed network environment. A distinctive feature of the system and method described herein is the ability to locate 5 such components, interfaces, or resources based upon certain specified attributes, and without having prior knowledge of the address or location of the component, interface, or resource. In accordance with one embodiment, a method includes the steps of generating a request for a component having at least one specified attribute, broadcasting the request across the network, receiving the request at a service provider, comparing the at least one specified attribute of the received request with 10 component attributes of the service provider, and communicating a response to the requesting service consumer. The system includes mechanisms for implementing and carrying out these steps.

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